

REMARKS

Claims 1-18 and 22-33 were pending in this application. Claims 1 and 7 have been amended. Claims 5-6 and 8-33 have been canceled. As such, claims 1-4 and 7 remain pending.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant notes with great appreciation Examiner's indication that dependent claim 9 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claim. Accordingly, the subject matter from claim 9 and intervening dependent claims 5, 6 and 8 has been incorporated into independent claim 1. As such, it is believed that claim 1 is now allowable. Further, it is also believed that dependent claims 2, 3, 4 and 7, which depend from allowable claim 1, are allowable.

The Rejections under 102(b) and 103 and Double Patenting Objection

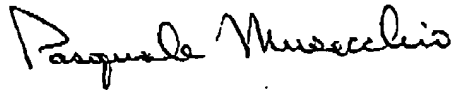
Claims 1-4 and 5-18, 22-33 stand rejected under 35 USC 102(b) and 103, respectively. In addition, claims 32 and 22 are objected to as being substantial duplicate of claims 17 and 18. In view of the foregoing amendments and the indication of allowable matter, the rejection of these claims is now moot, as is the double patenting objection.

Conclusion

It is respectfully submitted that in regard to the above amendments and remarks that claims 1-4 and 7 are allowable and that the application should be allowed. Should the Examiner be of the view that an interview would expedite consideration of this Amendment or of the application at large, request is made that the Examiner telephone the applicant's attorney at (732) 321-3193 in order that any outstanding issues be resolved.

While it is believed that no additional fee is due, the undersigned authorizes the charging of any fee deficiency that is due to Deposit Account No. 19-2179.

Respectfully submitted,



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